

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-16, and 18-21 are pending in the application, and no changes are being made to the claims in this Response. The pending claims stand rejected under 35 USC 102 and/or 103 as being unpatentable in view of US Patent No. 6,172,305 ("Tanahashi"). Because Tanahashi fails to disclose a feature recited in all of the pending claims, reconsideration of the final rejection is respectfully requested.

The pending claims recite "a first voltage plane, "a signal layer on one side of the first voltage plane," and "a second voltage plane on the other side of the first voltage plane." That is, the signal layer and the second voltage plane are on opposite sides of the first voltage plane. Moreover, the claims recite "a plurality of floating microstrip line traces on the signal layer, wherein each microstrip line is ... electrically connected to the second voltage plane."

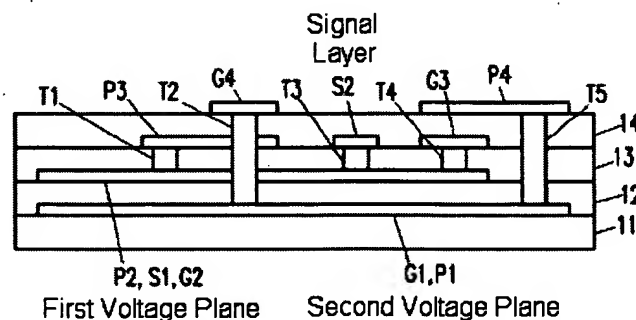
According to the Office Action, Tanahashi discloses in FIGS. 1A through 1C:

a first voltage plane (12, comprising P2, S1, G2);

a signal layer (13, comprising S2); and

a second voltage plane (11, comprising G1, P1).

Thus, labeling FIG. 1B of Tanahashi:



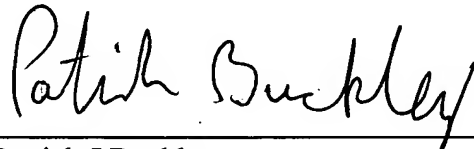
While the signal layer and the second voltage plane are on opposite sides of the first voltage plane (as recited in the pending claims), P3 and G3 (treated as microstrip lines in the Office Action) are not "electrically connected to the second voltage plane" as recited in the pending claims. Rather, T1 and T4 electrically connect P3 and G3 to what is treated as the first voltage plane in the Office Action.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully suggest that the other embodiments disclosed in Tanahashi suffer from a similar deficiency, and that nothing in the references cited by the Examiner teach or suggest the invention recited in the pending claims.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-0191.

Respectfully submitted,



July 13, 2005
Date

Patrick J. Buckley
Registration No. 40,928
Buckley, Maschoff & Talwalkar LLC
Five Elm Street
New Canaan, CT 06840
(203) 972-0191